

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT A 01129 01 OF 02 301739Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15
STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01
AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00
XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 FDRE-00 /085 W
-----301804Z 058822 /53

O R 301600Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4489
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT AU PRINCE 1129

SANTO DOMINGO FOR AGATT

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, HA
SUBJECT: EMBASSY SUPPORTS GOH REQUEST FOR TITLE I CORN AND RICE

REF: (A) STATE 62565, (B) SANTO DOMINGO 1307, (C) PORT AU PRINCE 947

1. SUMMARY. MY AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND EMBASSY OFFICERS
HAVE JUST PERFORMED A SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SURVEY IN
HAITI WHICH DEMONSTRATES A CLEAR AND PRESSING NEED FOR
IMPORTED GRAINS, PARTICULARLY CORN AND RICE. BOTH ARE IN
SHORT SUPPLY, DEMAND IS INCREASING, PRICES HAVE RISEN
SHARPLY TO 4-6 TIMES U.S. PRICES, INCREASED IMPORTS ARE
LIMITED BY LOW FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES, AND THE OUTLOOK
FOR UPCOMING HARVESTS IS BLEAK. THE 10,000 TONS OF CORN
AND 10,000 TONS OF RICE REQUESTED BY THE GOH APPEAR TO BE
THE MINIMUM QUANTITY NEEDED TO PREVENT SHARPLY INCREASED
SUFFERING AMONG THE URBAN AND RURAL POOR OF THIS VERY POOR
COUNTRY. IN FACT, THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE CONSIDERS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT A 01129 01 OF 02 301739Z

THAT HAITI'S NEEDS ARE AS GREAT AS ANY COUNTRY IN THE
WORLD. I THEREFORE REQUEST THAT URGENT ACTION BE
INITIATED TO PROVIDE HAITI WITH 10,000 TONS OF RICE AND
10,000 TONS OF CORN UNDER PL 480 TITLE I AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT HAITI HAS A NATIONWIDE FOOD

SHORTAGE. WIDESPREAD DROUGHT HAS REDUCED THE MOUNTAIN GROWN CORN AND MILLET CROPS OF SUBSISTENCE FARMERS BY MORE THAN 50 PER CENT. BEAN CROPS IN IRRIGATED AREAS APPEAR TO BE HOLDING UP, BUT MOUNTAIN PRODUCTION HAS FAILED. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT MANGOES, A TRADITIONAL SPRING FOOD OF THE RURAL POOR, ARE DOING POORLY IN AREAS OF THE NORTHWEST. HAITI HAS TWO MAIN RICE HARVESTS, WINTER AND SUMMER, AND LESSER HARVESTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THE WINTER HARVEST APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN A YEAR AGO. THE SUMMER HARVEST IS EXPECTED TO BE MUCH SMALLER. INADEQUATE IRRIGATION WATER IN THE ARTIBONITE IS INJURING CROPS UNDER WAY AND DELAYING PLANTINGS. CONTINUED DROUGHT COULD REDUCE PRODUCTION BY 50 PER CENT OR MORE. THE BEST ESTIMATES AVAILABLE INDICATE THAT RICE PRODUCTION WILL BE DOWN BY ABOUT 30 PER CENT THIS FISCAL YEAR. ONE INDICATOR OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM IS THE SHARP REDUCTION IN SHIPMENTS TO PORT-AU-PRINCE. NORMALLY, THE PORT-AU-PRINCE AREA RECEIVES A TOTAL OF ABOUT 1,000 TONS OF RICE, CORN, AND MILLET A WEEK. IT NOW RECEIVES ABOUT 550 TONS OF IMPORTED RICE AND ALMOST NO CORN OR MILLET.

3. RICE PRICES HAVE RISEN SHARPLY IN RECENT MONTHS AND FAVORED VARIETIES NOW COST \$.45-\$.60 PER POUND IN LOCAL MARKETS, WITH OCCASIONAL JUMPS TO \$.70-\$.90 PER POUND. CORN PRICES HAVE ALSO RISEN RAPIDLY AND ON OCCASION CORN IS SOLD IN RETAIL MARKETS FOR THE SAME PRICE AS IMPORTED RICE OR \$.26 PER POUND. THE BEST WHOLESALE QUOTATION OBTAINED BY THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE INVOLVED UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT A 01129 01 OF 02 301739Z

ONE SPECIAL PURCHASE AT \$.13 PER POUND.

4. THE AVERAGE DAILY PER CAPITA CALORIC INTAKE IN HAITI IS ESTIMATED AT 1800. THIS LEAVES NO MARGIN FROM A NUTRITIONAL STANDPOINT FOR THE COUNTRY TO ABSORB A MAJOR GRAIN SHORTAGE OF THE TYPE NOW EXTANT. THE GOH HAS TRIED TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION BY IMPORTING RICE BUT IS NOW RUNNING OUT OF MONEY. COSTLY FOOD IMPORTS AS WELL AS IMPORTS OF NEEDED ELECTRIC GENERATING EQUIPMENT HAVE QUICKLY EXHAUSTED HAITI'S YEAR END BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SURPLUS.

5. FOLLOWING IS SUPPLY/DISTRIBUTION TABLE FOR CORN COVERING THE YEARS 1971-72 (OCT.-SEPT.) THROUGH 1975-76 WITH 1976-77 ESTIMATED. ALL FIGURES ARE IN METRIC TONS. NO ESTIMATES ARE PROVIDED FOR BEGINNING OR ENDING STOCKS BECAUSE THESE DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE AND IN ANY CASE WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT (NO CORN HAVING BEEN EXPORTED IN RECENT YEARS AND ENDING STOCKS ALWAYS

HAVING BEEN AT EXTREMELY LOW LEVELS). THE DATA ON IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. ARE ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS BEGINNING WITH CY 1972. ALL OTHER DATA ARE OCTOBER-SEPTEMBER. IMPORT DATA INCLUDES CORN MEAL AS WELL AS CORN. THE 1976-77 IMPORT PROJECTIONS CONSIST OF 10,000 TONS OF CORN TO BE PROVIDED UNDER TITLE I AND 10,000 TONS OF CORN TO BE IMPORTED FROM OTHER ASSISTANCE DONORS AND COMMERCIAL SOURCES.

CORN: SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION (IN METRIC TONS)

1971-72 1972-73 1973-74 1974-75 1975-76 1976-77

BEGINNING

STOCKS - - - - -

PRODUCTION 252,000 257,000 204,000 204,000 180,000 180,000

IMPORTS(TOT.) 826 5,465 673 6,647 3,581 20,000

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PORT A 01129 01 OF 02 301739Z

IMPORTS(U.S.) 826 5,465 673 3,647 3,581 20,000

TOTAL SUPPLY 252,826 262,465 204,673 210,647 183,581 200,000

CONSUMPTION 252,826 262,465 204,673 210,647 183,581 200,000

EXPORTS - - - - -

ENDING STOCKS - - - - -

TOTAL DISTR. 252,826 262,465 204,673 210,647 183,581 200,000

6. FOLLOWING IS SUPPLY/DISTRIBUTION TABLE FOR RICE COVERING SAME PERIOD AS FOR CORN. AGAIN, ALL DATA ARE OCT.-SEPT. YEAR BASIS EXCEPT IMPORTS FROM U.S., WHICH DOES NOT EXPORT RICE. DATA ON BEGINNING AND ENDING STOCKS ARE NOT INCLUDED FOR SAME REASONS CITED FOR CORN. THE 1976-1977 IMPORT PROJECTIONS FOR RICE INCLUDE 10,000 TONS TO BE SUPPLIED THROUGH THE TITLE I PROGRAM AND 25,000 TONS FROM OTHER SOURCES.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT A 01129 02 OF 02 301746Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01
 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00
 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 FDRE-00 /085 W
 -----301800Z 059244 /53

O R 301600Z MAR 77
 FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4
 90
 INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT AU PRINCE 1129

RICE: SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION (IN METRIC TONS)

1971-72 1972-73 1973-74 1974-75 1975-76 1976-77

BEGIN STOCKS	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRODUCTION	80,000	70,000	85,000	88,000	92,000	65,000
IMPORTS(TOT.)	350	5,400	800	4,450	11,500	35,000
IMPORTS(U.S.)	261	4,907	100	4,112	10,919	35,000
TOTAL SUPPLY	80,350	75,400	85,800	92,450	103,500	100,000
CONSUMPTION	80,350	75,400	85,800	92,450	103,500	100,000
EXPORTS	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENDING STOCKS	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL DISTR.	80,350	75,400	85,800	92,450	103,500	100,000

7. FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF IMPORTS OF RICE AND CORN
 BY COMMERCIAL AND CONCESSIONAL CLASSIFICATION FOR 1972 THROUGH
 1977 ESTIMATED. DATA ARE IN METRIC TONS.

1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977

RICE:
 UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT A 01129 02 OF 02 301746Z

CONCESSIONAL	261	-	93	925	5	11,000
COMMERCIAL	89	5,400	707	3,535	11,445	24,000
TOTAL	350	5,400	800	4,450	11,500	35,000

CORN:

CONCESSIONAL	-	-	-	3,000	-	10,000
COMMERCIAL	100	4,800	-	1,651	1,041	7,000
TOTAL	100	4,800	-	4,651	1,041	17,000

CORN MEAL:

CONCESSIONAL	726	665	590	136	136	1,000
COMMERCIAL	-	-	83	1,860	2,404	2,000

TOTAL 726 665 673 1,996 2,540 3,000

8. DATA PROVIDED IN TABLES BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM GOH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE PLANNING AGENCY (CONADEP), THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, A RECENT WORLD BANK ANALYSIS, REPRESENTATIVES OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AND ONGOING EMBASSY ANALYSIS. IN ADDITION, THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND EMBASSY OFFICERS MADE AN EXTENSIVE TRIP THROUGH THE MAIN AGRICULTURAL AREAS TO MEET WITH FARMERS AND VERIFY PRODUCTION ESTIMATES.

9. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO SUPPLY THE REQUESTED CORN AND RICE THROUGH THE TITLE II PROGRAM. TITLE II SHIPMENTS HAVE BEEN INCREASED RECENTLY AND THE DISTRIBUTION AGENCIES ARE GETTING ABOUT ALL OF THE COMMODITIES THAT THEY CAN EFFICIENTLY HANDLE. RICE AND CORN WOULD BE NEW ELEMENTS IN OUR PL 480 PROGRAM AND IT IS ONLY PRUDENT TO INTRODUCE THEM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AUTOMATIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OF THE COMMERCIAL MARKETS WITH ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST PROFITEERING. WE WOULD EXPECT, THEREBY, TO AVOID MOST OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT A 01129 02 OF 02 301746Z

THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS INEVITABLE WHEN TRYING TO PROVIDE FAVORED FOODS ON A GRANT BASIS.

10. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ACTION BE INITIATED IMMEDIATELY TO PROVIDE HAITI WITH 10,000 TONS OF RICE AND 10,000 TONS OF CORN THROUGH THE PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM.
ISHAM

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, RICE, CORN, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTA01129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770109-0276
Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977036/aaaaafgg.tel
Line Count: 259
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e437f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 62565, 77 SANTO DOMINGO 1307, 77 PORT AU PRINCE 947
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3110051
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY SUPPORTS GOH REQUEST FOR TITLE I CORN AND RICE
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, HA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e437f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009